



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
August 16, 2017

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on this item can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below.

Brucellosis Proposed 2018 Annual Work Plan – Proposed

In January 2013, the commission endorsed elk management recommendations from a citizen working group for use in areas with brucellosis (the Designated Surveillance Area as described by the Montana Department of Livestock). Annual work plans describe specific management actions available for implementation based upon these recommendations. Management efforts during 2016/2017 included two stackyards in the Dillon area, hazing efforts in the Paradise Valley and west of Bozeman, and limited kill permits in the Paradise Valley (no elk were killed). The proposed 2018 annual work plan largely restates the 2017 plan to include hazing, limited fencing, limited lethal removal of elk, habitat modifications, and other efforts to adjust elk distribution away from cattle at small scales to mitigate the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle. The proposed 2018 plan also clarifies/restates elements of the previous work plan, adds fence modifications to reduce impacts to existing fences when hazing elk away from cattle, and aligns the dates of the high-risk period with Department of Livestock dates for the same period (February 16 – July 15).

FWP Draft Forest Management Plan – Proposed

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has prepared a Draft Forest Management Plan and is seeking public review. Almost 200,000 acres of forested lands are distributed amongst 170 different sites including Fishing Access Sites (FAS), Fisheries Conservation Areas, Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas, and State Parks. This is a programmatic plan designed to provide consistent management direction and guidance for developing property-specific forest management plans, implementing forest management projects, and identifying forest management priorities. This Plan applies to all forested land under fee-title ownership administered by FWP.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email at fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted: online by using any of the links below; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

The proposed items will be accepting public comments until **5 p.m. Monday, September 18**. Final adoption of the Brucellosis Proposed 2018 Annual Work Plan proposed item will be at the **October Commission meeting**. Final consideration of the FWP Draft Forest Management Plan proposed item is tentatively scheduled for the **January or February 2018 Commission meeting** (the 2018 Commission meeting schedule has not been finalized).

- ✓ **Brucellosis Proposed 2018 Annual Work Plan – Proposed**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/brucellosis.html>
- ✓ **FWP Draft Forest Management Plan – Proposed**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/forestMgmt.html>